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(54) Improvements in and relating to wrappers for foodstuffs

(57) A wrapper for forming a package for a generally triangular foodstuff, e.g. a diagonally cut sandwich, comprises a strip 1 of relatively inflexible sheet material, such as paperboard or card, and a sheet 5 of flexible sheet material, such as a transparent heat sealable plastics sheet material. The strip 1 has a central transverse fold line 2 dividing it into two panels 3, 4 which, in use, extend along the adjacent perpendicular sides of the sandwich. At least panel 3 of the strip 1 is attached to an edge portion of the sheet 5 in the position relative to that edge portion that it will assume in the final package, and sheet 5 is dimensioned so that it will fold around the sandwich and strip 1, with the edge portions of the sheet 5 overlapping the longitudinal edges of the panels 3, 4 of the strip. The strip 1 may be attached to the sheet by adhesive and the overlapping edge portions of the sheet 5 may be heat sealed together. The attachment of the sheet 5 to the strip 1 simplifies the wrapping operation, by avoiding the need to carefully position the sandwich and the strip 1 relative to the sheet 5 before wrapping the foodstuff. The required position of the sandwich on the wrapper is predetermined by the position of the strip on the sheet.

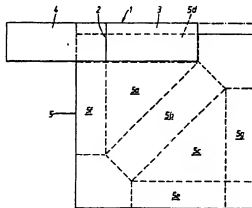


Fig. 2.

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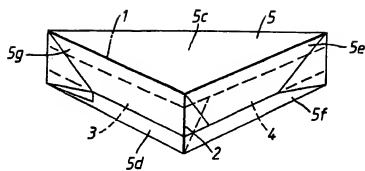


Fig. 1.

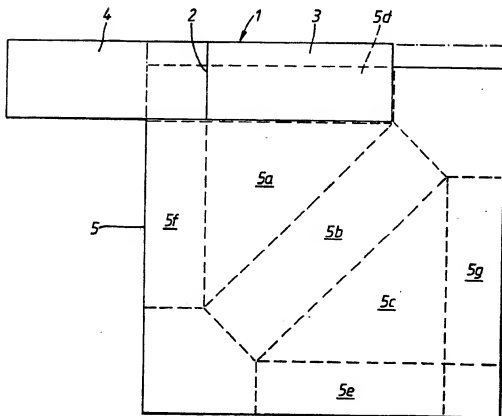


Fig. 2.

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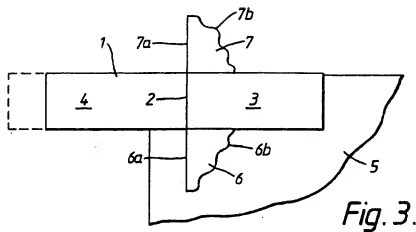


Fig. 3.

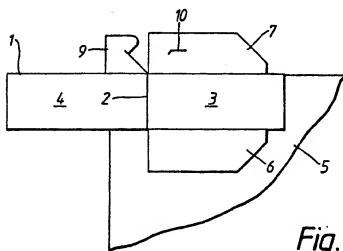


Fig. 4.

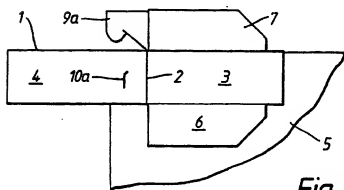


Fig. 5.

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Improvements in and relating
to Wrappers for Foodstuffs

The present invention relates to a wrapper for foodstuffs, particularly triangular foodstuffs such as sandwiches, and in which the foodstuff is to be sealed.

It is known to wrap sandwiches in a package using a strip of paperboard which is folded transversely to provide at least two panels which extend around at least the two perpendicular sides of the triangular sandwich, the whole then being encased in a separate transparent plastics sheet, the edges of which are sealed together along the strip. Such an arrangement is shown in U.K. Patent Specification No.1299690.

The problem with this arrangement is that time consuming care must be taken in correctly positioning the cut sandwich with the strip of paperboard on the plastics sheet to ensure that when the sheet is folded up its edges will overlap on the strip so that they can be sealed together.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a wrapper for forming a package for a generally triangular foodstuff comprising a strip of

relatively inflexible sheet material which is transversely foldable to provide two panels for extending along adjacent perpendicular edges of the triangular foodstuff, and a sheet of flexible sheet material attached to the strip, the sheet being dimensioned to, in the final package, encase the foodstuff with edge portions of the sheet overlapping the longitudinal edges of both panels of the strip, wherein the strip is arranged to overlies a first edge portion of the sheet with one of the two panels in the position relative to said first edge portion that it will assume in the package and the strip is attached to the sheet such that both the panels can be arranged to be coplanar.

The sheet may be attached to both panels of the strip when coplanar. The other of the two panels may be attached, along part only of its elongate extent, to the sheet, said other panel being arranged to, in the package, overlies, along the remainder of its elongate extent, a second edge portion of the sheet adjacent said first edge portion. Said other panel of the strip is preferably attached to the corner of the sheet between said first and said second edge portions.

Alternatively, the sheet may be attached to only said one of said two panels of the strip.

The extreme edge of the said first edge portion may be positioned generally parallel to, and between, the parallel longitudinal edges of the strip. Alternatively, the extreme edge may be positioned generally flush with one of said longitudinal edges.

The sheet is preferably substantially square, and dimensioned so that, in the package, pairs of adjacent edges of the sheet overlap.

The strip may be provided with an additional panel extending from at least one longitudinal edge of

one of the said two panels, the or each additional panel being arranged to overlies a face of the foodstuff in the package. Means may be provided on the additional panel and on the other one of said two panels, for interlocking during assembly of the package to maintain the said two panels generally perpendicular. These interlocking means may comprise tongue and slot means.

The sheet material may be heat sealable. The face of the strip which is the exterior face in the package may be provided with a thermoplastic coating.

The sheet may be attached to the strip by adhesive or, where the strip has a thermoplastic coating, using the coating.

Further features and advantages of the present will become apparent from the following description of embodiments thereof, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a package comprising a sandwich encased in an embodiment of a wrapper according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the wrapper of Figure 1 opened out; and

Figures 3 to 5 show modifications of the wrapper of Figure 2.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the embodiment of wrapper of Figure 1 is intended to create a sealed package as shown in Figure 1 in which a generally triangular foodstuff, for example a diagonally cut sandwich, is enclosed. The wrapper comprises a generally rectangular strip 1 of relatively inflexible sheet material, such for example as paperboard or card. The strip has a central transverse foldline 2 dividing it into two generally rectangular panels 3, 4 which, in use, extend along the adjacent perpendicular sides of the sandwich. The strip 1 is attached to a generally square

sheet 5 of flexible sheet material, such for example as transparent heat sealable plastics sheet material, which is dimensioned such that it will fold round the sandwich and strip with edge portions of the sheet 5 overlapping the longitudinal edges of panels 3, 4 of the strip and preferably as shown overlapping each other to be sealed together.

The strip 1 is positioned on the sheet 5 along one edge of the sheet with one of the panels, as shown panel 3, in the position it will have relative to that edge of the sheet 5 in the final package. Panel 3 is attached by its exterior surface to the sheet 5. In Figure 2 the broken lines indicate the regions in which the sheet 5 will be folded around the sandwich, although these lines are not pre-formed in the sheet. As is apparent, in use triangular portion 5a of the sheet will underlie the bottom face of the sandwich as shown in Figure 1, rectangular portion 5b will extend over the cut edge of the sandwich, at the hypotenuse of the triangular sandwich, and triangular portion 5c will extend back over the top face of the sandwich. This then leaves edge portions. Rectangular edge portion 5d is already attached to the exterior surface of panel 3 and rectangular edge portion 5g is folded to overlap it. Rectangular edge portion 5f is folded up to overlie panel 4 and then rectangular portion 5e is folded down to overlap portion 5f. The remaining corner portions are then folded about the edges and foldline of the strip onto the strip and fixed down.

As is apparent from Figure 2, panel 4 of the strip overlies the sheet 5 along part only of the elongate length of the panel 4. As shown, when coplanar with panel 3, panel 4 overlies a corner portion of the sheet 5 and it is advantageously attached to the sheet 5 to assist in forming the corner fold in sheet 5 at foldline 2.

As shown, edge portions 5d, 5e, 5f and 5g of sheet 5 have a sufficient width that each will overlap the adjacent edge portion in each pair 5d, 5g and 5e, 5f of edge portions when folded around strip 1 in the final package. At most, each edge portion may have a width substantially equal to the width of the strip.

While sheet 5 may, as shown in Figure 2, be positioned relative to the strip 1 with the extreme edge of edge portion 5d parallel to, and positioned between, the parallel longitudinal edges of the strip 1, the extreme edge may, as shown in dash-dot line, be made generally flush with a longitudinal edge of the strip 1 for convenience of manufacture.

Preferably the sheet material 5 is heat sealable so that portions 5d, 5g and 5e, 5f, together with the corner portions, are heat sealable together. The panel 3 and part of panel 4 of the strip may be attached to the sheet by adhesive. Because, in this embodiment, the sealing of the package is created by overlapping the edge portions of sheet 5, the manner of attaching the sheet 5 to strip 1 does not need to create a seal between the two.

In a modification, the exterior surface of the strip may be provided with a thermoplastic coating by which it is attached to the sheet 5. In this modified embodiment, the edge portions 5d, 5g and 5e, 5f do not need to be overlapped with each other but may simply overlap the strip to which they are, in the final package, heat sealed using the coating.

Strip 1 may comprise one or more additional panels for overlying one or both faces of the sandwich and/or for overlying the cut edge of the sandwich. Preferably such additional panels are connected to panel 3, although they may be connected to panel 4.

As shown in Figure 3, additional panels 6, 7 extend from the longitudinal edges of panel 3 and each

has an edge 6a, 7a extending perpendicular to the longitudinal edge of the panel 3 for alignment with the longitudinal edge of panel 4 in the final package. The other edge or edges 6b, 7b may have any convenient shape and the panel 6, 7 may be dimensioned to cover more or less of the face of the sandwich. It will be appreciated that only one of the two panels 6, 7 may be provided. Where provided, panel 6 may be attached, e.g. by adhesive, to the sheet 5.

Figure 3 also shows in broken lines, a further panel extending from the extreme end of panel 4 for overlying the cut face of the sandwich to a greater or lesser extent, as required or desired.

For ease of assembly, means may be provided on an additional panel 6 or 7, and on the opposite of the two panels 3,4 to that on which the additional panel 6 or 7 is provided, for interlocking during assembly of the package to maintain the panels 3, 4 mutually perpendicular.

As shown in Figure 4, the means may comprise a locking tongue 9 extending from the edge of panel 4 for engagement in a slot 10 in additional panel 7.

In the embodiment of Figure 5 the locking tongue 9a is provided extending from an edge of additional panel 7 for engagement with a slot 10a formed in panel 4.

It will be appreciated that the additional panel 7 of Figures 4 and 5 may alternatively extend from panel 4 and be engaged by a locking tongue 9 to panel 3 either directly or indirectly.

Conveniently this modification may also be provided in association with additional panel 6 although it is found sufficient to associate it with only one additional panel and conveniently the additional panel which overlies the top surface of the sandwich.

Prior to use, the wrapper may be stored with the panels 3, 4 coplanar, as shown in Figure 2, or with panel 4 folded back to overlie panel 3.

CLAIMS

1. A wrapper for forming a package for a generally triangular foodstuff comprising a strip of relatively inflexible sheet material which is transversely foldable to provide two panels for extending along adjacent perpendicular edges of the triangular foodstuff, and a sheet of flexible sheet material attached to the strip, the sheet being dimensioned to, in the package, encase the foodstuff with edge portions of the sheet overlapping the longitudinal edges of both panels of the strip, wherein the strip is arranged to overlie a first edge portion of the sheet with one of the two panels in the position relative to said first edge portion that it will assume in the package and the strip is attached to the sheet such that both the panels can be arranged to be coplanar.

2. A wrapper as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sheet is attached to both the panels of the strip when coplanar.

3. A wrapper as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the other of the panels is, when coplanar with the one panel, attached along part only of its elongate extent to the sheet, said other panel being arranged to, in the package, overlie, along the remainder of its elongate extent, a second edge portion of the sheet adjacent said first edge portion.

4. A wrapper as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said other panel is attached to the corner of the sheet between said first and said second edge portions.

5. A wrapper as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sheet is attached to said one panel of the strip and is not attached to said other panel of the strip.

6. A wrapper as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the extreme edge of said first edge portion is generally parallel to, and positioned between, the parallel longitudinal edges of the strip.

7. A wrapper as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the extreme edge of said first edge portion is generally flush with a longitudinal edge of the strip.

8. A wrapper as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the sheet is substantially square and is dimensioned so that, in the package, pairs of adjacent edges of the sheet overlap.

9. A wrapper as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the strip is provided with an additional panel extending from at least one longitudinal edge of one of the said two panels, the or each additional panel being arranged to overlie a face of the foodstuff in the package.

10. A wrapper as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the additional panel, or one of the additional panels, overlies the sheet and is attached to the sheet.

11. A wrapper as claimed in either Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein means are provided on the additional panel and on the other one of said two panels for interlocking during assembly of the package to maintain the said two panels generally perpendicular.

12. A wrapper as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the interlocking means comprises tongue and slot means.

13. A wrapper as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the sheet material is heat sealable.

14. A wrapper as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the face of the strip which is the exterior face in the package is provided with a thermoplastic coating.

15. A wrapper as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the sheet is attached to the strip by adhesive.

16. A wrapper for foodstuffs substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

17. A package comprising a triangular foodstuff wrapped in a wrapper as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.